

REPORT ON CLASSIFICATION  
OF MENTAL DISEASES

AS A

Basis of International Statistics of  
the Insane,

MADE TO THE

BELGIAN SOCIETY OF MENTAL MEDICINE.

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By CLARK BELL, Esq.

INTERNATIONAL DELEGATE FOR NORTH AMERICA.

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DR. JULES MOREL,

Secretary Society of Mental Medicine of Belgium.

*Honored Sir and Colleague.*—I have the honor to submit herewith the transactions of a conference of the committees representing various distinguished scientific bodies of the United States of America and the Canadas, with eminent Alienists and Publicists, who had been invited to co-operate with the International Com-

mittee, appointed at Antwerp last September, under the auspices of your Society.

This Conference was held on 8th September, 1886, at Saratoga, New York, and notwithstanding divergence of views, unanimously agreed upon a basis, which it gives me great pleasure to submit to your body, and which I shall also transmit to my associates upon the International Committee.

It is hoped, on this side the Atlantic, that out of the various classifications submitted, some *one* may be selected by the International Committee, or your body, which may ultimately receive the assent of all, and that in the near future we may realize a uniform basis, that shall be accepted and adopted, for International Statistics of the Insane, by the civilized world.

After the labors of the International Committee in selecting the basis, have been completed, much will be needed to secure uniformity in International Legislation, in order to reap the benefit of those labors, and the co-operation of Publicists and Governments must be invoked.

The system of census taking by the General Government of the United States of America, compares favorably with other countries. Among American States, Massachusetts, has already placed herself in advance of the others, and tolerably accurate returns are now made in that State, as also done in Ireland and Norway. It is hoped these results may be greatly improved in the near future by all or many other countries.

It remains for the International Committee, or your

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body, as early as possible, to agree upon a common basis, to which all can assent, having in view its practical value for the purposes of uniformity in International Statistics, regarding Insanity, only, and not hoping to reach, with our present limited knowledge of the Pathology of Insanity, an exact scientific classification which would be acquiesced in, by all Students of Mental Medicine.

With great respect,  
Yours ever faithfully,  
CLARK BELL.

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SARATOGA, Sept. 8, 1886.

CLARK BELL, Esq., New York,

Member International Committee on Classification of Mental Diseases.

*Dear Sir.*—Having been elected Secretary of the Conference of Alienists assembled here to-day, on your invitation, to consider the subject of "An International Classification of Mental Diseases," allow me to submit the following Report of the proceedings, which, I hope, on behalf of the Conference, may prove acceptable to your General Committee.

I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

WALTER CHANNING, M. D.,

Member of the Committee of Delegates appointed  
by the New England Psychological Society,  
and Secretary of the Conference.

MINUTES OF A CONFERENCE  
OF  
COMMITTEES DESIGNATED BY SCIENTIFIC BODIES, ALIEN-  
ISTS AND PUBLICISTS, HELD ON INVITATION OF  
CLARK BELL, Esq.,  
INTERNATIONAL DELEGATE, APPOINTED AT THE ANTWERP CONGRESS  
OF SEPTEMBER, 1885, ON

Classification of Mental Diseases

AS A BASIS FOR A UNIFORM SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICS OF  
THE INSANE, HELD AT SARATOGA, NEW YORK, ON  
SEPTEMBER 8TH, 1886.

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SARATOGA, SEPTEMBER 8TH, 1886. }  
Morning Session, 10 A.M. }

Mr. CLARK BELL, International Delegate, read the call, which had been sent to each member of the several Committees selected by the various scientific bodies, who had responded to the invitation sent by him upon

the suggestion of the Belgian Society of Mental Medicine, to co-operate with the International Committee,

57 BROADWAY, NEW YORK,

August 30, 1867.

*My Dear Sir :*

The Conference of the various Committees appointed by Scientific bodies, Eminent Alienists and Publicists, to agree upon a uniform classification of Mental Diseases, in order to secure the best basis of International Statistics of the Insane, in co-operation with the International Committee appointed at the Antwerp Congress, held by the Belgian Society of Mental Medicine, last Autumn, will be held at Saratoga, N. Y., on September 8th, 1886, at 10 o'clock A. M.

Dr. Pliny Earle has been invited to preside.

You are cordially invited to be present. Please advise me if you will attend.

CLARK BELL,

*Member of International Committee for North America.*

and said that this invitation had been sent to a large number of eminent alienists and publicists of the United States and the Canadas, known to be interested in the subject, and to the leading Editors of the Medical Press, who took an interest in Forensic Medicine, Neurology and Psychiatry. Mr. Bell said that the International Committee on International Statistics of the Insane and Classification of Mental Diseases was composed as follows :

Dr. D. Hack Tuke, of London, for England ; Dr. Guttstadt, of Berlin, for Germany ; Prof. Dr. Benedikt, of Vienna, for Austria ; Dr. Magnan, of Paris, for France ; Dr. Valdemar Steenberg, of Copenhagen, for Scandinavian countries ; Dr. Mierzejewski, for Russia ; Dr. Ramaer, of the Hague, for Holland ; Dr. Sola, of Buenos Ayres, for South America ; Mr.

Clark Bell, for North America; Prof. L. Wille, of Basle, for Switzerland; Prof. Andrea Verga, Senator of Milan, for Italy.

That the paper of Prof. Lefebvre, of Belgium, the proceedings of the Congress at Antwerp, the letter of B. C. Ingels, M. D., late Secretary of the Belgian Society, to the American member of the Committee, had been forwarded to several of the learned and scientific bodies of the United States and Canada, and the attention of the American, Canadian and Mexican Governments called to the desire of the Belgian Society, and the co-operation requested of these bodies and Governments to the work imposed upon the Committee by the Antwerp Congress.

That the following gentlemen have been named by the learned societies, as their representatives in the work :

The Medico-Legal Society of New York :—Dr. Pliny Earl, of Northampton, Mass.; Dr. Alice Bennett, of Norristown, Pa.; Dr. Charles H. Hughes, editor *Alienist and Neurologist*, St. Louis, Mo.

The National Association for the Protection of the Insane and the Prevention of Insanity :—Dr. Charles K. Mills, of Philadelphia; Dr. John C. Shaw, Superintendent of Flatbush Asylum, N. Y.

The American Association for the Cure of Inebriety :—Joseph Parrish, M. D., Burlington, N. J.; T. D. Crothers, M. D., Hartford, Conn.; Dr. Albert Day, Superintendent Washington Home, Boston, Mass.

The Society for Promoting the Welfare of the Insane :—Dr. Henry R. Stiles, New York City; Edward P. Wiley, Esq., New York City.

The Association of Medical Superintendents of American Institutions for the Insane :—Dr. Charles H. Nichols, of Bloomingdale Asylum, New York; Dr. Henry P. Stearns, Hartford Retreat for Insane, Hartford, Connecticut.

The Massachusetts Medico-Legal Society :—F. Winsor, M. D., President of that Society, Winchester, Mass.; Ira Russell, M. D., Superintendent Insane Hospital, Winchenden, Mass.

American Academy of Medicine :—Dr. E. W. Cushing, of Boston; Dr. A. D. Roekwell, of New York; Dr. P. N. Connor, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Medico-Chirurgical Association of Canada :—Dr. Henry Howard, Montreal; Dr. James Stewart, McGill University, Montreal.

New England Psychological Association :—Dr. J. P. Bancroft, Concord, N. H.; Dr. William B. Goldsmith, Superintendent Butler Hospital, Providence, R. I.; Dr. Walter Channing, Superintendent, etc., Brookline, Massachusetts.

American Social Science Association :—F. B. Sanborn, Secretary of Concord, Mass.; Prof. Wayland, of Yale College, New Haven, Conn.; Hon. Carroll D. Wright, of Bureau of Statistics, of Boston, Mass.

Ontario Medical Association, of Toronto, Canada :—Dr. Buck, Superintendent of the Insane Asylum at London, Canada, and Dr. C. K. Clark, Superintendent of the Insane Asylum at Kingston, Canada.

Mr. Bell moved that Dr. PLINY EARLE, many years Superintendent of the Massachusetts State Lunatic Hospital at Northampton, Ex-President of the Association of Medical Superintendents of American Institutions for the Insane, and Chairman of the Committee designated by the Medico-Legal Society of New York, to co-operate with the International Committee, be chosen Chairman of this Conference, which was seconded by Dr. J. P. Bancroft, Ex-Superintendent of the New Hampshire State Lunatic Asylum at Concord, and unanimously adopted.

Dr. Pliny Earle took the Chair, and after thanks for the high honor, spoke of the great importance of the subject, the difficulties and embarrassments surrounding it, and the great interest he felt in it, in common with all alienists and publicists in this country.

It was moved that Dr. Henry P. Stearns, of the Hartford Retreat for the Insane, delegate representing the Association of Medical Superintendents of American Institutions for the Insane, be chosen Vice-Chair-



man of the Conference, which was seconded by Dr. Ira Russell, of Winchenden, Mass., and unanimously adopted.

On like motion, Dr. Walter Channing, Superintendent of Insane Hospital at Brookline, Mass., one of the delegates designated by the New England Psychological Society, was chosen Secretary by unanimous vote.

At the request of the Chair, Mr. Bell stated the history, nature and purposes of the Conference, read the list of eminent alienists and publicists who had been invited, and a large number of letters from such as were unable to attend, expressing their interest in the subject, and many of them containing suggestions as to the labor before the Conference.

Among these were letters from Dr. Alice Bennett, of Norristown Asylum, Pa.; Dr. F. Winsor, of Massachusetts Medico Legal Society; Dr. E. W. Cushing, of Boston, representing the American Academy of Medicine; Prof. William A. Hammond, of New York; Dr. A. E. Macdonald, General Superintendent of New York City Asylum for the Insane.

Dr. James Hendrie Lloyd, of Philadelphia, Pa., Secretary of the Philadelphia Neurological Association; Dr. Charles K. Mills, President of the American Neurological Association; Dr. William B. Goldsmith, Superintendent Butler Hospital for the Insane at Providence, R. I.; Dr. S. S. Schultz, Superintendent Insane Hospital at Danville, Pa.; Dr. Buttolph, President of the Association of Medical Superintendents of American Institutions for the Insane of Short Hill, N. J.;



Dr. J. Alden Blumer, of State Lunatic Asylum at Utica ; Dr. P. M. Wise, Superintendent of Willard Asylum ; N. Y. ; Dr. Andrews, Superintendent of State Asylum at Buffalo, N. Y. ; Dr. Talcott, of State Asylum at Middletown, N. Y. ; Dr. Isaac Ott, of Easton, Pa. ; Dr. John Curwen, Secretary National Association of American Superintendents of the Insane of Warren, Pa. ; Dr. Henry Leffman, Secretary Medical Jurisprudence Society of Philadelphia ; Dr. J. Olmstead, Superintendent Connecticut State Hospital at Middletown, Conn. ; Dr. B. Sachs, Editor Journal "Nervous and Mental Diseases," N. Y. ; Dr. Jewell, Editor of "Neurological Review of Chicago" ; Dr. H. M. Hurd, of Pontiac Asylum, Michigan ; Dr. R. L. Parsons, of Sing Sing, N. Y. ; Dr. George B. Twitchell, of Keene, N. H. ; Dr. E. B. Nims, of Massachusetts State Hospital at Northampton ; Hon. Oscar Craig, and Hon. William P. Letchworth, of New York State Board of Charities ; Dr. W. B. Hallock, of Cromwell Hall, Conn. ; Dr. R. J. Dunglison, Editor "College and Clinical Record," of Philadelphia, Pa. ; Dr. Wardner, Superintendent Illinois Southern Hospital for the Insane at Anna, Ill. ; Dr. Jennie McCowen, of Davenport, Iowa.

Letters of acceptance were read from Dr. Bancroft, Dr. Ira Russell, Dr. A. P. Rockwell, of New York ; W. B. Fletcher, of Indianapolis ; Dr. Channing, of Brookline, Mass. ; Hon. Carroll D. Wright, of Boston ; F. B. Sanborn, of Concord, Mass. ; Prof. Wayland, of Yale College ; Dr. T. D. Crothers, of Hartford, Conn., and others.

Dr. Earle announced that at request of Mr. Bell he had invited Dr. Joseph Draper, of Brattleboro Asylum, Vt. ; Dr. T. W. Fisher, of City Lunatic Asylum, Boston ; Dr. John G. Park, of Lunatic Asylum at Worcester, Mass., and Dr. H. M. Quimby, of Worcester Lunatic Asylum, Mass.

Mr. Bell also gave a list of others invited, among whom was Dr. William W. Godding, Superintendent Government Hospital for Insane at Washington, D. C., whom he had since learned was absent on his vacation, and he feared it had not been received by Dr. Godding.

Mr. Bell announced that Mr. F. B. Sanborn, of Concord, Mass. ; Prof. Wayland, of Yale ; and Hon. Carroll D. Wright, of Boston, were the delegates chosen by the American Social Science Association, all of whom were in attendance.

Dr. J. E. White, Secretary of the Ontario Medical Association, telegraphed Mr. Clark Bell that "Dr. Buck, Superintendent of Insane Asylum of London, Canada, and Dr. C. K. Clark, Superintendent Insane Asylum at Kingston, Ontario, Canada," were named as representatives for that Association for the Conference, but the telegram did not reach Mr. Bell until too late to send notices to those gentlemen.

A letter of Dr. Henry Howard, representative of the Medico Chirurgical Association of Canada, was read before the Conference, as desired by him, and three papers forwarded by him were laid before the body, viz. :

Medical History of Louis David Riel, at Longue Point Asylum.

Criminal Responsibility.

Address before McGill University, and announcing that his co-committeeman, Dr. Stewart, was in Europe.

Mr. Bell submitted to the Conference the various plans, or Basis of Classification, that had been submitted by the different members of the International Committee, as reported by Dr. B. C. Ingels, to the Belgian Society, as also that submitted by Meynert, for Austria, and Dr. Mierzejewski, for Russia.

These various plans were carefully considered, discussed and compared with each other.

Mr. Bell also submitted a letter from Dr. Chas. K. Mills, President of the American Neurological Association, urging simplicity and brevity in the basis to be adopted, and expressing his great interest in the subject, enclosing a plan that he favored.

A general discussion followed, participated in by the Chairman, Dr. Pliny Earle, Dr. J. P. Bancroft, Dr. J. M. Carnochan, Dr. Walter Channing, Dr. Henry P. Stearns, Mr. Clark Bell, Dr. W. B. Fletcher, of the Indiana State Hospital, F. B. Sanborn, of Boston, and Dr. Ira Russell. In the course of the discussion, Drs. Stearns and Channing each presented a plan devised by himself.

The following points were considered as settled by the Conference :

1. That the proposed classification should be

framed, with special reference to its practical use, for the purpose of securing a uniform basis for International Statistics of the Insane.

2. That it was not deemed desirable to make a complete, detailed Scientific Classification of Insanity, which should embrace all known forms or subdivisions of the Insane, but as simple a classification as could well be framed, for the purpose we had in view, viz. : that of securing a basis for uniform International Statistics, that should be representative of American thought under our present knowledge of the science.

After a full discussion, a basis was agreed upon, and Dr. Henry P. Stearns was selected to submit it to the Conference at the adjourned session, at 3:30 P. M., for further action.

Adjourned to 3:30 P. M., at Bethesda Parish Home.

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#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

3:30 P. M., September 8th, 1886.

Dr. PLINY EARLE in the Chair.

The Chair introduced Mr. CLARK BELL, the International Delegate, who addressed the meeting at length, giving the action of the Belgian Society initiating the movement; the transactions of the Antwerp Conference; the composition of the International Committee;

the labors and plans of such countries as had submitted their plans already ; the course he had taken to secure the co-operation of the most distinguished of American and Canadian Alienists and Publicists, and the success which had crowned his labors in the present Conference.

Dr. Henry P. Stearns, of Hartford, made extended remarks, explaining the previous labors of the members, in agreeing upon a basis which he carefully explained and submitted, and concluded an interesting address by moving its adoption, and that it be recommended by the Conference to the International Delegate for North America for submission by him to the Belgian Society, viz:—

Plan of Classification of Mental Diseases, adopted at a Conference of Committees, Alienists and Publicists, held on invitation of Mr. Clark Bell, Member of the International Committee, for North America appointed by the Antwerp Congress, on Classification of Mental Diseases, as a Basis for International Statistics of Insanity, at Saratoga, New York, September 8th, 1886.

1.—Mania.	} Acute. } Chronic. } Recurrent. } Puerperal.
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2.—Melancholia.	} Acute. } Chronic. } Recurrent. } Puerperal.
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3.—Primary delusional insanity (monomania).

4.—Dementia.	}	Primary.
		Secondary.
		Senile.
		Organic (tumors, hemorrhages, etc.).

5.—General Paralysis of the insane.

6.—Epilepsy.

7.—Toxic Insanity (alcoholism, morphine, etc.).

8.—Congenital mental deficiency.	}	Idiocy.
		Imbecility.
		Cretinism.

General discussion followed by the Chairman, Dr. Pliny Earle, Dr. J. P. Bancroft, of New Hampshire, Dr. W. B. Fletcher, of Indiana, Dr. Ira Russell, of Massachusetts, Dr. John M. Carnochan, of New York, Dr. Walter Channing, of Brookline, Mass., Mr. F. B. Sanborn, of Boston, Dr. E. M. Mosher, of Brooklyn, Dr. Hall, of Brooklyn. On being put to vote, the motion of Dr. Stearn was adopted unanimously.

The Conference then adjourned *sine die*.

WALTER CHANNING, M. D.,

Secretary.